

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: July 21, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on July 14, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response (Abandoned Trailer with Drums), Van Buren Township, Michigan

On July 10, 2000, United State Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator Bob Buckley, Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team, and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) response manager mobilized to the abandoned trailer in Van Buren Township, Michigan. Earlier in the Spring the local fire department had contacted U.S. EPA Criminal Investigations Division for assistance. A local waste treatment and disposal facility, with approval from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, had offered the Township the temporary use of their facility for secure storage while the trailer contents were evaluated. On July 12, 2000, the trailer was moved to the temporary storage area and an ERRS crew began to unload the trailer's contents so the drums could be accessed. Civil and criminal investigators, the Federal Bureau Investigation, and enforcement specialists examined records, shipping labels, and other items in an attempt to identify responsible parties. Many of the items were auto parts. Also, included were clothing items and three pallets of cases of Bibles and other religious books. Also,

found in the very front of the trailer were 42 drums of which 11 were determined to be hazardous by hazcatting. Ten were empty, 12 were sealed and labeled non-haz (non-hazardous) and confirmed non-haz by hazcatting. Samples were sent for confirmatory analysis. Transport and disposal will be initiated when the sample results are known. Potential responsible party leads are being pursued.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Response, Lowell Oil Well Spill, Lowell, Ohio

On July 10, 2000, at the request of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), U.S. EPA responded to a leaking oil tank from a well field in Lowell, Washington County, Ohio. When the U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) arrived, the Ohio EPA had lain some containment boom, hay bails, and sorbent pads to contain the oil that had leaked into an unnamed tributary to Bear Creek (which is a tributary to the Muskingum and Ohio Rivers). Approximately 300 to 500 gallons of crude oil had leaked from an oil well field storage tank by way of a bottom valve. The tank had released all of its contents. The cause of the opened valve was unknown. Upon inspection of the tank, it was noted that the inlet piping was no longer connected to the oil well for which it serviced. The oil well itself was in fair condition and not leaking. The tank and the production well have both been orphaned for over 25 years. The OSC mobilized a cleanup contractor to remove the oil from the small creek and plug the tank valve. The cleanup consisted of collecting standing oil with sorbent pads and opening up the stream channel to allow residual oil bound up in foliage to flow to a collection area. The majority of the oil was collected and drummed by July 11, 2000. Sorbent boom and pads were placed strategically to collect residual sheen that would continue to move downstream. The pad will be inspected and changed periodically over the next 2 weeks.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Emergency Response, National Steel-Great Lakes, Zug Island, Michigan

On July 11, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Partap Lall responded to the release of coke oven gas (containing benzene and toluene) at the Zug Island, Michigan, manufacturing facility

of the National Steel Company. Because of the breakage of leveling bar cable at oven number 60, coal unevenly filled the oven, plugging the gas passage. Cause of the accident is under investigation. The release was stopped and the cable was fixed. Before the end of the day, normal activities resumed. There was no site impact

from the incident. The shift manager stated that after the company personnel have completed the calculations, they will report the quantity released to the atmosphere.

Contact: Partap Lall (734-692-7685)

Construction Completion, Vandale Junkyard Superfund Site, Washington County, Ohio

On July 7, 2000, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) for the Vandale Junkyard Superfund site in Washington County, Ohio. Issuance of this report signifies remedial action construction completion for the site.

The remedy in the 1994 Record of Decision calls for collection and consolidation of hazardous wastes, off-site disposal of drummed materials and other hazardous wastes not suitable for onsite containment, consolidation of hazardous soils and wastes under a waste cap, institutional controls, groundwater/surface water/sediments monitoring, and other operation and maintenance requirements such as inspections and repairs. An additional action, the Potential Responsible Parties' (PRPs') enhanced remedy, was approved by Region 5 in 1999 and was required because of an unstable slope affecting the capped area. The main feature of the enhanced remedy was the design and construction of an earthen buttress at the toe of the cap.

The prefinal inspection follow up on June 9, 2000, verified that construction was essentially complete. The remaining item, perimeter fencing, has since been completed.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

Reed-Keppler Park Re-Opened, Kerr-McGee (Reed-Keppler Park) Superfund Site, West Chicago, Illinois

On July 15, 2000, Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons, along with U.S. Representative Dennis Hastert, the Mayor of West Chicago, and other local and State officials, participated in a media event announcing the official re-opening of Reed-Keppler Park, which is the Kerr-McGee (Reed-Keppler Park) Superfund site in West Chicago, Illinois. The event was planned to coincide with the West Chicago Railroad

Days festivities being held in the park. Other U.S. EPA representatives attending the event were Remedial Project Manager David Seely, Frank Rollins, and Ken Westlake. The event was well attended by the local media and included reporters from WGN, Fox News, Channel 2 News, and the Sun Times. During the ceremonies, U.S. Representative Hastert and the Mayor of West Chicago jointly presented plaques to many local citizens that have been active in a local citizens' group called the Thorium Action Group or TAG, and leading the community fight to remove radioactive contamination from the area.

Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC has been implementing a time-critical removal action pursuant to an Unilateral Administrative Order. Excavation of contaminated materials began in the Spring of 1997 and was completed in late Fall of 1999. The \$33 million dollar cleanup removed over 114,000 cubic yards of contaminated material to a permitted disposal site in Utah. This year, the excavation was backfilled to design grades, seeded, and landscaped to restore the site for surficial recreational use. The removal report is expected to be submitted by early September 2000.

Contact: David Seely (312-886-7058)

Explanation of Significant Differences (Polychlorinated Biphenyl Areas Operable Unit), Sangamo Electric Dump/Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (USDOJ) Superfund Site, Marion, Illinois

On June 23, 2000, the U.S. EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Areas Operable Unit (PCB OU) at the Sangamo Electric Dump/Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (USDOJ) Superfund site in Marion, Illinois. This ESD was issued to conduct additional source removal activities for groundwater contamination. The ROD for the PCB OU signed by U.S. EPA on August 1, 1990, required the excavation of lead, cadmium, and PCB-contaminated soil and sediments at four sites; incineration of PCB-contaminated material; stabilization/fixation of lead/cadmium-contaminated soil/sediments, if necessary, to render them non-hazardous; and disposal of non-hazardous material in an onsite landfill.

The ESD selected multi-phase extraction of chlorinated solvent

contaminated groundwater, with limited phytoremediation and monitored natural attenuation. The estimated capital cost is from \$1.5 million to \$3.2 million. The ESD also documented an increase in volume of materials treated (original estimate: 32,400 cubic yards; actual volume: 65,412 cubic yards at a cost of \$43,000,000). The increase in volume was due mainly to the additional excavation needed to remove and treat PCB-contaminated material with levels of PCBs between 25 milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) and 50 mg/kg.

Contact: Nan Gowda (312-353-9236)

Public Meeting (Drum Removal), North Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site (Also known as the Valleycrest Landfill Site) and Hollander Industries Site, Dayton, Ohio

On June 20, 2000, a public meeting was held to update the community on drum removal action currently under way at the North Sanitary Landfill Superfund site (also known as the Valleycrest Landfill site) and Hollander Industries site in Dayton, Ohio. The meeting was attended by 45-50 residents, along with representatives from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), Ohio Department of Health, City of Dayton, and the potential responsible party group. Many of the concerns and questions came from residents living on Valleycrest Drive. Their questions mainly touched on health issues, odors, and dust from the site.

Contacts: Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)
Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

Community Site Tour, Cannelton Industries, Inc. Superfund Site, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

On June 27, 2000, the Office of Public Affairs hosted a community site tour briefing at Cannelton Industries to mark the cleanup of the Cannelton Industries, Inc. Superfund site, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Representatives from U.S. EPA, State and local governments, and Phelps Dodge who paid for the \$5 million cleanup, participated. The Cannelton Industries site, totaling about 75 acres, is near the Canadian border on the shore of the St. Mary's River. The Northwestern Leather Company operated a tannery on the property from 1900 to 1958.

Wastes from the tannery's operations were identified in five separate areas, requiring extensive cleanup.

Contacts: Don de Blasio (312-886-4360)
Mick Hans (312-353-5050)
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**Construction Completion Briefing and Availability Session,
Vandale Junkyard Superfund Site, Marietta, Ohio**

On July 17, 2000, Region 5, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and the potential responsible parties' (PRPs') remedial design/remedial action project coordinator briefed City of Marietta local officials on the recent construction completion achieved at the Vandale Junkyard Superfund site in Marietta, Ohio. The briefing occurred at the Marietta City Hall. The purpose of the briefing was to describe construction completion and upcoming operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, and respond to questions. The local officials, including the Mayor of Marietta, were satisfied of the site progress made to date and of the O&M plans. Later, a public availability session was held at the Marietta Lookout Park Community Center. The purpose of the session was to brief, and respond to questions from, the public and press. The level of public interest was quite low based on the low turnout. Region 5 did respond to many questions from local newspaper reporters and was interviewed on-camera by WTAP, a Parkersburg, West Virginia, television station.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Groundbreaking Ceremony (Brownfields Redevelopment), Cedar Village, Dearborn, Michigan

On July 6, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Bob Buckley attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Cedar Village; Dearborn Michigan's newest neighborhood at the site of the former Sharon Steel facility, a Brownfields Redevelopment project funded by a Region 5 grant to the Downriver Community Conference (DCC). Emergency Response Section 1 has periodically attended the DCC Brownfields meetings and provided assistance.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

PowerPoint Presentation (Mercury Pollution Prevention), Detroit, Michigan

On July 6, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Bob Buckley, with Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team assistance, made a school mercury pollution prevention PowerPoint presentation to the Mercury Reduction in Schools Task Force at Children's Hospital of Michigan. The audience included State and local health and environmental officials, poison control center and other hospital workers, educators, and other school officials. The focus of the task force initially was Detroit public schools. Discussions at the meeting included bringing the PowerPoint message to the entire southeast Michigan area or statewide, perhaps at

meetings/conferences of high school science teachers. Copies of the presentation CD were requested.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Indoor Air Quality Presentation, Grosse Ile Township Schools, Grosse Ile, Michigan

On July 12, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Bob Buckley met with the Business Manager, the Building and Grounds Supervisor, and other school administrators for the Grosse Ile Township School District to present the U.S. EPA program, "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools." Also presented, briefly, was a discussion of mercury reduction. The high school principal indicated recent media attention had resulted in a review and tightening up of Grosse Ile High School science department procedures.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Eastern Wisconsin Sub-Area Planning Meeting, Green Bay, Wisconsin

On July 12, 2000, the Eastern Wisconsin Area Committee meeting was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This committee is the area planning vehicle for the Wisconsin coastline of Lake Michigan. On-Scene Coordinator Karen Vendl attended as U.S. EPA's representative on this committee. The main item on the agenda was the Industry Lead Preparedness Response Exercise Program which is scheduled for 2002. Design team members were decided at the meeting, and preliminary contacts will be made by the U.S. Coast Guard with some industries in the northern part of the planning area (i.e., the Green Bay area).

As one of the local responders, the Chief of the Green Bay Fire Department was in attendance. After the meeting, he took meeting participants on a tour of the Green Bay police and fire command post in Lambeau Field. This command post is activated during all Packer home games. In addition to viewing the command post, meeting participants toured the press box, sky boxes, and got to walk around on the "frozen tundra" itself.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
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